

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended, and claims 23-44 have been cancelled. Claims 1-22 remain in the application. Applicants request that the application be examined on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel S. Kasten', written over a horizontal line.

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CLAIM AS AMENDED

MAY 10 2001

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1. (Amended) An attenuated derivative of a pathogenic microorganism which further comprises:

(a) an inactivating mutation in a native chromosomal essential gene;
(b) a recombinant complementing gene on an extrachromosomal vector encoding a functional replacement for the essential enzyme, wherein the complementing gene can recombine to replace the defective chromosomal gene; and

(c) a desired gene on the extrachromosomal vector, wherein the desired gene is a recombinant gene encoding a desired gene product;

wherein the desired gene is stably maintained in a progeny population of the microorganism.

